Moreover, the Government, announced a package for the Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.05.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to the Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

The Government has also decided to continue the REGP programme druing 10th Plan period also and Rs. 1250 crores has been proposed to be allocated during 10th Plan period for this scheme.

Development of coir industry in Maharashtra

4506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES.be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for promotion and development of coir industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): The Coir Board has been implementing various programmes for the sustainable development of coir industry such as Research and Development, Quality Improvement, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Markets for coir products both in domestic and export sectors and welfare support.

A techno-economic feasibility study for the development of coir industry was conducted by the Coir Board in two leading coconut growing districts of Maharashtra namely Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri. Based on the study an action-plan has been suggested to the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of coir industry in Sindhudurg district.

Infrastructure for Agro and Rural Industries

4507. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables that are processed in the rural industries;